THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No decision has been taken by the Planning Commission, at present, to review the current method of poverty estimation. However, the Planning Commission has constituted an Expert Group in December, 2005 under the Chairmanship of Professor Suresh D. Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The Expert Group has not yet submitted its report.

Annual Plan for Uttarakhand

†2555. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase recommended/approved in the annual plan of Uttarakhand State during the year 2006-07 in comparison to the last year and the percentage of increase recommended/approved by the Planning Commission in the annual plan of the year 2007-08 in comparison to the last year; and

(b) the reasons for low increase in the annual plan of the present planning year as compared to the last year's plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The percentage increase in the Annual Plan approved by Planning Commission for the year 2006-07 in comparison to the previous year was 48.15% and in the Annual Plan 2007-08 it was 9.47%. The agreed plan size is finalized in consultation with the State Government on the basis of resource projection by the State, availability of the resources and overall debt ceiling of the State.

Declaration of backward districts

2556. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts in the country declared by Government as backward districts as on date;

(b) whether Government have formulated any national policy in this respect; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of poor families residing in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The list of 250 districts identified for coverage under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), set up in 2006-07, is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. However, as stated in reply to part (a) of the question above, the Government set up the Backward Regions Grant Fund in 2006-07 to redress regional imbalances in development. The fund will provide financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into the identified districts through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of the districts identified for coverage under BRFG

Backward Regions Grant Fund – List of Districts

Name of the State/District

1. Andhra Pradesh

1.Adilabad, 2.Anantpur, 3.Chittoor, 4.Cudappah, 5.Karimnagar, 6.Khammam, 7.Mahbubnagar, 8.Medak, 9.Nalgonda, 10.Nizamabad, 11.Rangareddy 12.Vizianagaram, 13. Warangal

2. Arunachal Pradesh

Upper Subansiri

3. Assam

1.Barpeta, 2.Bongaigaon, 3. Cachar, 4.Dhemaji, 5.Golpara, 6.Hailakandi 7.Karbi Anglong, 8.Kokrajhar, 9.Marigaon, 10.North Lakhimpur (Laksha) 11.North Cachar Hills

4. Bihar

1.Araria, 2.Aurangabad, 3. Panka, 4. Begusarai, 5. Bhagalpur, 6.Bhojpur 7. Buxur, 8.Darbhanga, 9.Gaya, 10. Gopalganj, 11.Jamui, 12.Jehanabad 13.Kaimur / Bhabua, 14.Katihar, 15.Kishanganj, 16. Khagaria, 17.Lakhisarai 18. Madhepura, 19.Madhubani, 20.Munger, 21.Muzaffarpur, 22.Nalanda 23.Nawadah, 24.Patna, 25. Pashchim Champaran, 26. Purba Champaran 27.Purnia, 28.Rohtas, 29. Sahrsa, 30.Samastipur, 31. Saran, 32. Sheikhpura, 33.Sheohar, 34.Sitamarhi, 35.Supaul, 36.Vaishali

5. Chhattisgarh

1.Bastar, 2.Bilaspur, 3.Dantewada, 4.Dhamtari, 5.Jashpur, 6.Kankar, 7.Kawardha 8. Korba, 9.Koriya, 10. Mahasamund, 11.Raigarh, 12.Rajnandgaon, 13.Sanruia

6. Gujarat

1.Banas Kantha, 2.Dangs, 3.Dohad, 4. Narmada, 5.Panch Mahals, 6. Sabarkantha

7. Haryana

1.Mohindergarh, 2.Sirsa

8. Himachal Pradesh

1.Chamba, 2.Sirmaur

9. Jammu and Kashmir

1.Doda, 2.Kupwara, 3.Poonch

10.Jharkhand

1.Bokaro, 2.Chatra, 3. Deoghar, 4.Dhanbad, 5.Dumka, 6.Garhwa, 7.Giridih 8.Godda, 9.Gumla, 10.Hazaribagh, 11.Jamtara, 12.Kodarma, 13.Latehar, 14.Lohardagga, 15.Pachhim Singhbhum, 16.Pakaur, 17.Palamu, 18.Ranchi 19.Sahibganj, 20.Saraikela, 21.Simdega

11. Karnataka

1.Bidar, 2.Chitradurga, 3.Davangere, 4.Gulbarga, 5. Raichur

12. Kerala

1.Palakkad, 2. Wynad

13. Madhya Pradesh

1.Balaghat, 2.Barwani, 3.Betul, 4.Chhattarpur, 5.Damoh, 6.Dhar, 7.Dindori 8.Guna, 9. Jhabua, 10.Katni, 11.Khandwa, 12.Mandla, 13.Panna, 14.Rajgarh 15.Rewa, 16.Satna, 17. Seoni, 18. Shahdol, 19.Sheopur, 20. Shivpuri, 21.Siddhi 22.Tikamgarh, 23.Umaria, 24.West Nimar

14. Maharashtra

1. Ahmednagar, 2. Amravati, 3. Aurangabad, 4. Bhandara, 5.Chandrapur, 6. Dhule

7.Gadchiroli, 8. Gondia, 9.Hingoli, 10. Nanded, U. Nandurbar, 12. Yavatmal

15. Manipur

1.Chandel, 2.Churchandrapur, 3.Tamenlong

16. Meghalaya

1. Ri Bhoi, 2.South GaroHills, 3.West Garo Hills

17. Mizoram

1.Lawngtlai, 2.Siaha

18. Nagaland

1.Mon, 2. Tuensang, 3. Workha

19. Orissa

1. Bolangir, 2. Boudh, 3. Debagarh, 4. Dhenkanal, 5.Gajapati, 6. Ganjam, 7. Jharsuguda, 8.Kalahandi, 9.Keonjhar, 10.Koraput, 11.Malkangiri, 12.Mayurbhanj, 13. Nabrangpur, 14. Nuapada, 15. Phulbani, 16. Rayagada, 17. Sambalpur, 18. Sonapur, 19.Sundargarh

20. Punjab

1.Hoshiarpur

21. Rajasthan

1.Banswara, 2.Barmer, 3.Chittaurgarh, 4.Dungarpur, 5.Jaisalmer, 6.Jalor, 7.Jhalawar 8. Karoli, 9.Sawai Madhopur, 10. Sirohi, 11.Tonk, 12.Udaipur

22. Sikkim

1. Sikkim North

23. Tamil Nadu

1. Cuddalore, 2.Dindigul, 3.Naggapattinam, 4. Sivgangai, 5.Tiruvannamalai 6. Villupuram

24. Tripura

1.Dhalai

25. Uttar Pradesh

1.Ambedkar Nagar, 2.Azamgarh, 3.Bahraich, 4.Balrampur, 5.Banda, 6.Barabanki, 7. Basti, 8.Budaun, 9.Chandauli, 10.Chitrakoot, 11.Etah, 12.Farrukhabad 13.Fatehpur, 14.Gonda, 15.Gorakhpur, 16.Hamirpur, 17.Hardoi, 18.Jalaun 19.Jaunpur, 20.Kaushambi, 21.Kushinagar, 22.Lakhimpur Kheri, 23.Lalitpur, 24. Maharajganj, 25.Mahoba, 26. Mirzapur, 27.Pratapgarh, 28.Raebareli, 29.Sant Kabir Nagar, 30. Shravasti, 31. Siddharthanagar, 32.Sitapur, 33.Sonebhadra 34.Unnao

26. Uttarakhand

1.Chamoli, 2.Champawat, 3.Tehri Garhwal

27. West Bengal

1. Bankura, 2. Birbhum, 3.Dakshin Dinajpur, 4.Jalpaiguri, 5. Maldah, 6. Medinipur East, 7. Medinipur West, 8. Murshidabad, 9. Purulia, 10. South Twenty Four Parganas, 11.Uttar Dinajpur

Decline in BPL people

†2557. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the number of people living below poverty line in various States of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of last three years thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether this number is more in urban areas or in rural areas, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at the national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The two latest comparable estimate of poverty are available for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05 estimated from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure of the 50th and 61st Rounds of NSS respectively. As such, it is not possible to estimate the decline in the number of people living below the poverty line in the last three years. However, from the state-wise poverty estimates of 1993-94 and 2004-05, the State-wise decline in the number of people living below the poverty line has been estimated for the period 1993-94 to 2004-05. These are given in the Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.